

WE CLAIM:

1. A system for the automatic collection and conditioning of closed caption text originating from multiple geographic locations comprising:

5 (1) a remote capture client means having a tuner to receive at least one broadcast source, a decoder operatively connected to said tuner to decode closed caption text streams in said at least one broadcast source, and a text handler operatively connected to said decoder to write said decoded closed caption text streams to one or more closed caption text files; and

(2) a central server means for storing and processing said text files; and

10 (3) transmission means for transferring said text files from said remote capture client to said central server means, said transmission means being controlled by said remote capture client, whereby said text files are pushed by said remote capture client to said central server means.

15 2. The system of claim 1, wherein said means for transferring comprises file transfer protocol.

20 3. The system of claim 1, wherein said means for transferring comprises a move routine, whereby said text files are deleted from said remote capture client means upon successful transfer of said text files to said central server means.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein said move routine comprises an API wrapper.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein said means for transferring initiates a communications session between said remote capture client means and said central server means when a text file is created at said remote capture client means.

6. A method for the automatic collection and conditioning of closed caption text originating from multiple geographic locations comprising:

- (a) receiving at least one broadcast source;
- (b) decoding closed caption text streams in said at least one broadcast source;
- (c) writing said decoded closed caption text streams to one or more closed caption text files;
- (d) storing said text files at a remote capture client means; and
- (e) transferring said text files to a central server means, said transferring being controlled by said remote capture client, whereby said text files are pushed from said remote capture client means to said central server means.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein said step (e) utilizes a file transfer protocol.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein said step (e) further comprises deleting said text files from said remote capture client means upon successful transfer of said text files to said central server means.

9. The system of claim 6, wherein said step (d) is initiated when a text file is created at said remote capture client means.

10. A system for the automatic collection and conditioning of closed caption text originating from multiple geographic locations comprising:

- (a) a remote capture client means having a tuner to receive at least one broadcast source, a decoder operatively connected to said tuner to decode closed caption text streams in said at least one broadcast source, and a text handler operatively connected to said decoder to write said decoded closed caption text streams to one or more closed caption text files; and
- (b) a central server means for storing and processing said text files;
- (c) an inquiry client means for submitting a search profile to said central server;
- (d) means for comparing said search profile to said text files to create a search result;
- and
- (e) means for displaying said search result using a web browser on said inquiry client.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein said means for displaying comprises a server side scripting environment.

12. The system of claim 10, wherein said server side scripting environment is selected for the group consisting of: ASP, ISAPI, ASP.NET, VB.NET, as combinations thereof.